

Our veterans' population is getting older. More than 36,000 World War II veterans are dying each month. In my own state, close to 5,000 veterans are being laid to rest each month. We cannot expect a group of older veterans to provide these honor guard services day in and day out for their military peers. We are simply asking too much of a generation that has already given so much.

I believe we have a responsibility to act. This bill will ensure that every veteran receives a funeral worthy of patriotic service to our country. By passing the Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998, the Congress will send a powerful message to veterans that their service to us all will never be forgotten.

I encourage all Members of the Senate to join in this effort.●

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on March 24, 1998, I joined Senators SARBANES and MURRAY in a bipartisan effort to correct a policy that is a disservice to our veterans. The issue we are addressing is the failure of the military to provide appropriate representation at a veteran's funeral in a military cemetery. To remedy this failure, we have introduced the "Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998" that corrects this failure.

Currently, the Department of Defense allows commanders in the field to decide what level of military representation there will be at the funeral of a veteran. It is becoming a common practice for the military to send a single representative to provide the mourning family with the American flag along with an audio tape recording of Taps.

Mr. President, I find it astounding that families mourning the loss of a veteran would be expected to bring a boom box to a funeral in order that a tape of Taps can be played. Is this the way the military thinks it is appropriate to honor the memory of a serviceman or woman who has served their country honorably? For the sacrifice that veterans have made, DoD can only respond with a single person and a tape recording. This is a slap in the face of the honor of all who have served.

Mr. President, because I believe veterans deserve more, I have worked with my colleagues Senator MURRAY and Senator SARBANES to set a minimum level of effort by the military for veteran funerals.

As a former Chairman and member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I know that it is impossible to completely repay our debt to our veterans. However, I believe Congress can find ways to show our gratitude and respect.

On Tuesday, we introduced legislation that requires at least a five person honor guard for veteran burials upon request. DoD, if it chooses, can send a larger contingent, but the five person honor guard will be minimum representation. And the legislation requires that one of the five representatives plays Taps—not a tape recording!

This legislation will also allow National Guard and Reserves to perform this duty, thus increasing the resources available to DoD for this duty. Serving in the honor guard will not count as a period of drill or training. I believe this is necessary to preserve the readiness of the Guard and Reserves, who are playing a larger role in our downsized military.

Mr. President, I know when I have seen funerals with a military honor guard, I walk away humbled. When we pay our respects for those who have served, it is the little things that make the difference. Five men or women participating in the service not only gives a final honor to the veteran but also recognizes the sacrifice the veteran and the family have made.

I hope that my colleagues will join us in cosponsoring the "Veterans Burial Rights Act of 1998." A veteran should be remembered for their service and sacrifice. There is no better way to remind everyone of this, than with a military honor guard. It is the least that we can do to show our respects and gratitude for our veterans.●

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleagues, Senators MURRAY and MURKOWSKI, as an original co-sponsor of S.1825, The Veterans' Burial Rites Act of 1998. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure the continued availability of military burial honors to our veterans.

More and more families across the country are discovering that, due to budgetary cutbacks, full military burial honors are not available for their relatives who have served in the armed forces. In many cases that have been brought to my attention, families are now being told that the best they can expect for these loved ones—who clearly deserve a funeral with full military honors—is a taped rendition of "taps" and a lone representative from the armed services.

In my view, a society is not only judged by the way it treats its aging, its children and its least fortunate, but also by how it dignifies and honors its deceased. Knowing of the commitment and sacrifice of the armed forces and how important military honors are to those who serve and to their families, it would seem that maintaining these rites would be a high priority for the Department of Defense. It is very difficult for me to understand any degradation or lapse in this regard.

When I first learned of this growing problem, in late 1997, I wrote to the Secretary of Defense, urging him to personally review this matter and identify the means to reinstate traditional military honors for those who have served. I have now joined forces with Senators MURRAY and MURKOWSKI in introducing this legislation in an effort to ensure that full burial honors will always be available to our nation's veterans when requested. Simply, this legislation would ensure that the sufficient manpower and funding is available for requested burial details to con-

sist of at least five members of the armed services, National Guardsmen, or Reservists—including a bugler, a firing party, and a flag bearer.

In my view, the issue is clear and our commitment should be unwavering. Our veterans are always there when this country is in need. Rightfully, they have come to expect certain commitments in return which ensure them the dignity they deserve—in life and in death. In my view, it is our obligation to continue to provide these honors without hesitation and without degradation. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GEORGETOWN COLLEGE: 1998 N.A.I.A. BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President: I rise today to recognize basketball excellence. As you may know, basketball is a way of life in Kentucky. While people are most familiar with Kentucky's two Division IA schools, our state also has its share of small schools that do not always receive the recognition they are due. It is one of those schools that I want to recognize today: the 1998 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Basketball Champions: the Tigers of Georgetown College, located in the town of Georgetown, Kentucky.

On March 23, led by NAIA first team All-America sophomore center Will Carlton, Georgetown defeated Southern Nazarene College 83-69 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After a roller coaster first half that included a thirteen point deficit, Georgetown took a one point lead into the locker room at halftime. Midway through the second half, the Tigers exploded for 17-2 run fueled by Carlton and teammate Barry Bowman, who combined for 15 of those 17 points. During the penultimate run, the offense of Carlton and Bowman was supported by solid defense that held Southern Nazarene to only two free throws in the six and a half minutes.

This national title is the first in Georgetown College basketball history. Having lost in the finals on two previous occasions—1961 and 1996—these Tigers, led by coach Happy Osborne finished their dream season with a record of 36-3. They steadily improved their play throughout the tournament, symbolized by their cutting their turnovers from 30 in the first round to only nine in the final.

While this National Championship was the result of a total team effort, it is worth noting that Carlton, a sophomore, and Bowman, a junior, were joined by senior David Shee on the all-tournament team. After averaging nearly 22 points and 12 rebounds in the tournament, Carlton received the Chuck Taylor Most Valuable Player Award for the tournament.

Mr. President, I congratulate Coach Osborne and his team on a marvelous season culminating in this NAIA National Championship, their version of March Madness. And with most of

these Tigers expected to return next year, I look forward to Georgetown successfully defending their crown next year.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LEONARD STERN

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Leonard Stern for receiving the 25th Anniversary Recognition Award from the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Stern has been a pioneer in New Jersey's real estate industry and has been crucial to the State's resurgent real estate market. From investing in the New Jersey Meadowlands to Jersey City's waterfront, Mr. Stern's ventures have greatly improved both the health of the economy and the environment in northern New Jersey. By providing jobs and improving infrastructure, Mr. Stern's commercial property has improved the general welfare of the region and has helped prepare it for the challenges of the approaching century.

For over forty years, Mr. Stern has worked to enhance our premier educational institutions. In 1961, he founded the Albert Einstein School of Medicine at Yeshiva University. He established the Presidential Scholars Program at New York University to provide scholarships for qualifying students of all races and creeds. In addition, he has provided invaluable assistance to New York University's School of Business, the Max Stern Regional College, the Max Stern Athletic Center at Yeshiva University and the Manhattan Day School. Mr. Stern's many awards and citations are a testament to his activism within these academic communities.

Leonard Stern's exemplary record of service sets a certain standard for which all Americans should strive. I applaud his efforts and encourage all Americans to follow his example.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VINCENT R. MAJCHIER

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the best friends that Connecticut's farmers have ever known: Vincent R. Majchier of Franklin, Connecticut.

Mr. Majchier held a number of important posts throughout his life. He was the Connecticut Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture in Connecticut for a decade, as well as acting Agriculture Commissioner.

Vinny Majchier was uniquely qualified to serve in these positions. He grew up on a farm near Franklin and worked the same land his entire life. He was known throughout the state as the farmer's farmer. Whenever a Connecticut farmer had a problem, they would go to Mr. Majchier and he would do everything in his power to help them. And no problem was too small. I can't remember how many times he came into my Connecticut office to

speak on someone else's behalf. It didn't matter if someone's corn fields had flooded, a frost had ruined some crops, or a friend was having problems with the price of pumpkins. Their problem was his problem, and he would do whatever he could to lend a hand.

Mr. Majchier also distinguished himself away from his farm and in the town of Franklin, where he lived his entire life. He served as Chairman of the Franklin Police Advisory Commission. He was a member of the Franklin Board of Selectmen, the Franklin Board of Assessors, the Franklin Board of Tax Review and on the Planning and Zoning board.

He also served as a charter member of the Franklin Lions Club, a trustee of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon, and a member of the Auxiliary State Police.

While he always had a new activity occupying his time, Vinny Majchier's first priority was always his family and his farm. These two true loves will both serve as his living legacy now that he has passed on.

He was survived by his wife Pauline; his four sons; two sisters; and nine grandchildren. I offer my heartfelt condolences to them all.●

#### NATIONAL MARITIME ARBITRATION DAY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 200, introduced earlier today by Senator INOUE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 200) designating March 26, 1998, as "National Maritime Arbitration Day."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD as if read at the appropriate place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 200) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 200

Whereas Congress recognizes the integral role arbitration plays in expeditiously settling maritime disputes;

Whereas the Society of Maritime Arbitrators is a nonprofit, United States based organization providing arbitration and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services to the international maritime industry;

Whereas the Society of Maritime Arbitrators has successfully facilitated the resolu-

tion of over 3,400 international commercial and maritime disputes since its inception in 1963; and

Whereas the Society of Maritime Arbitrators celebrates its 35th anniversary on March 26, 1998: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 26, 1998, as "National Maritime Arbitration Day"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating March 26, 1998, as "National Maritime Arbitration Day" and calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1998

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9 a.m. on Friday, March 27, 1998, and immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. As in executive session, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that tomorrow morning, immediately following the routine requests, the Senate proceed to executive session and immediately vote on the confirmation of the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 525, the nomination of Margaret McKeown, of Washington, to be U.S. circuit judge for the ninth circuit.

I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following the vote, Executive Calendar No. 504 be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that it be in order at this time to ask for the yeas and nays on Executive Calendar No. 525.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I therefore ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote at 9, Senators GORTON and MURRAY be recognized for up to 20 minutes each for discussion regarding the Washington State judicial nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators—I think they already know this by now—this last vote was the final vote of the evening. A rollcall vote now will occur at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning on a judicial nomination. We are having it at that early